

February 3, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Commission Secretary,
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Proceeding 03-16

As the Executive Director of The Senior Alliance (serving 34 communities in Southern and Western Wayne County), I am cognizant of the considerable confusion created by the fast-moving changes effecting the telecommunications industry. Seniors are especially challenged by these changes, and the simplicity of dealing with one service provider would certainly be of great benefit.

I also realize the importance of competition in any market to provide choices, increase the range of service options available, and to lower costs. It appears that telecommunications competition in Michigan is healthy and choices exist. It would, therefore, readily appear that SBC should be empowered to participate as a potential long distance service entity to expand the pool of available options.

SBC is an established service provider that people of all ages have utilized for many decades. It is a steady organization that they know well and in which large numbers of older persons are comfortable and confident. All Michigan consumers would be best served through a complete competition that would be fully inclusive of SBC.

SBC's entry into Michigan's long distance market clearly seems to be the next logical step to providing consumers with an appropriate range of future choices that will best enable them to completely experience the benefits of competition as intended in the laws that created the current open market situation.

If you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mike Simowski
Executive Director

MJS:dlw